



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Vol. 22, No. 1

September 1980

WILDFLOWERS, WEEDS AND INDIANS

In the hustle bustle of today's industrial society, we devote little time to look at, or appreciate, the wildflowers and weeds all around us. Today, most of us call them weeds and dread the task of pulling them from our gardens. It was not always that way. The Indians and early settlers found a good use for almost every weed then flourishing.



Weeds in the past were very important resources for food, health and everyday needs. The "Joe Pye" flower, with its blue flower cluster, which grows along the roadside and open fields, is named for the

Indian, Joe Pye. During the Revolution, he treated and was able to cure American troops when a typhus epidemic broke out. Just how important wildflowers are will be the subject of an illustrated journey Society members will take on September 16 when Edna Wirth, of Marlton, gives her talk about the importance of wildflowers to the Indians and early settlers. Ms. Wirth will intersperse her remarks with color slides and interesting facts about the wonders of the Joe Pye, the amazing cattail, milkweed, dandelion and other common, lesser known wildflowers.

Edna Wirth has made wildflowers her hobby. Since her retirement from the public

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday,
September 16, 1980

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Place: Friends Meeting House
Auditorium
Friends Avenue & Lake St.

Light refreshments will be served.



school system (she taught in Plainfield and Marlton,) she has been having fun while gathering and sifting all kinds of lore about wildflowers. A member of the Marlton Historical

Society, she is a well-known lecturer and has addressed many church groups and organizations throughout Southern New Jersey.

Even if you dislike weeds, you will find "Wildflowers, Weeds and Indians" interesting, informative and entertaining. And, who knows, maybe you will discover some new menu variations right in your own back yard!



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On the occasion of his company's 150th anniversary SmithKline Chairman of the Board Robert Dee remarked, "You need a rear view mirror, but you must always look ahead."

Looking in the Society's rear view mirror, today's members can see an organization, formed by a group of Haddonfield residents for the purpose of, as stated in the bylaws, "the study and dissemination of the History of the Borough of Haddonfield, in the County of Camden and the State of New Jersey; the study of organizations, societies, families, individuals and events; the collection, preservation and designation of sites and articles of historic value; the establishment and maintenance of a historical library; and the publication, from time to time, of such historical information as may be deemed expedient."

With the publication of the pamphlet, *A Brief History of Mountwell*, by Julia B. Gill, and *The Tanyard and Its Owners*, by Carrie E. Nicholson Hartel, in 1922, the Society's Research Committee (later, the History Book Committee) began to issue a series of pamphlets including other papers by Mrs. Hartel, and by Samuel N. Rhoads, Rebecca Taylor Rhoads and William R. Farr. One of its most recent publications, *Haddonfield: Its Life with Railroads — 1852 - 1976*, by Marion Pennypacker Tatem, has become a best seller. The society has also published two books: In 1936, *Colonial Furniture of West New Jersey*, now a collector's item; and, to celebrate Haddonfield's 250th Anniversary, the definitive history, *This Is Haddonfield*. Two maps, Haddonfield in 1899, and an original map by Jesse Haydock and Joseph Hartel showing Haddonfield in 1875, complete the Society's publications program.

Having helped to raise funds for a Library and Historical Building, the Society became a joint tenant with the library when the building was completed in 1919. In their new surroundings both organizations flourished, and in less than twenty years, each group's acute need for more room was resolved by the Society's moving in 1937 to a building of its own at 231 Kings Highway East. In time, the Society outgrew that building; and when the opportunity to purchase *Greenfield Hall* arose, the Society entered into negotiations for its purchase. Formal dedication took place at the Candlelight Dinner in 1961.

Offered the opportunity to purchase the historic Hip Roof House, the Society not only bought the house, but also moved it and began to restore it.

How was all this done? There is only one answer: Through the vision, interest, support and hard work of Society members — the men and women who have served over the years as its officers, as trustees, as committee chairpersons and as librarians, curators and hostesses. What the Society has today in terms of buildings, furnishings and mementoes of life in earlier times is a reflection of members' generosity and their faith in the Society's future.

In recent times the Woman's Committee and the newer Evening Group have brought recognition to the Society through the February Tea, the Annual Historic Village Fair and the Christmas Craft Shoppe.

The record is impressive.

But, we have looked through the rear view mirror long enough. Let us look ahead.

We are the inheritors of an established organization, well recognized in the community and in reasonable financial and physical health. "Reasonable," because inflation and rising costs affect the Society just as they do individuals, and the erosion of time, weather and pollution have affected the condition of *Greenfield Hall*.

We today are charged with the responsibility of leaving to the generations which follow us financial and physical resources in at least as sound condition as those we received. It is a real challenge.

Among the concerns to which the Society must direct attention are:

1. Establishing a Building Maintenance Program to assure *Greenfield Hall's* being kept in good repair at all times.
2. Increasing financial reserves through seeking grants, annual giving and encouraging bequests and legacies.
3. Broadening the membership base.
4. Generating community-wide interest in the Society.
5. Developing educational programs.
6. Completing the restoration of the Samuel Mickle House.

The first step towards translating these needs into action programs has been taken with the establishment of a long-range Planning Committee.

Regardless of what else the Society may have in the way of *assets*, its greatest asset is — and always has been — its members.

What the Society is today — and what it will be tomorrow — is determined by the interest, dedication and hard work of its members — the men and women who will share with the Society their time, talent and energy.

IN MEMORIAM

KENDALL F. WARE

With the death of Ken Ware on May 27, the Society lost a good friend, an interested member and a generous consultant. As Membership Chairman, Ken took advantage of every opportunity to invite newcomers to Haddonfield to join the Society. As consultant to the History Book Committee, Ken guided its members expertly through the complexities of preparing manuscripts for printing and getting cost estimates and made his recommendations for obtaining quality work at affordable prices. His active, lively interest in the Society, his support of its programs and his willingness to serve were appreciated by all his fellow members. His ever-cheerful disposition and his steady guidance will be missed.

DORIS B. WORTH

A good friend, a tireless worker and an enthusiastic member of the Society, Mrs. Worth died on August 22. Doris didn't wait to be asked to help; when she saw something that needed doing, she went ahead and did it. Fascinated with dolls and their history, Doris made a study of the Society's collection, prepared an illuminating talk for members of the Evening Group and lovingly refurbished several of the Society's dolls and their wardrobes. Quiet, calm and steadfast, Doris was a source of strength in everything she did and for all those who worked with her.

NEWS BRIEFS

HADDONFIELD TO HOST NEW JERSEY LEAGUE

New Jersey League of Historical Societies has accepted the Society's invitation to hold its Spring meeting on Saturday, March 21, 1981. A committee chaired by Gladys Bewley, assisted by Mary Carll, Caroline Moody, Kay Kucher, Betsy McMnamin and Patricia Lennon, is putting the final touches on a series of events which should give League members an opportunity to become personally acquainted with Haddonfield and its many distinctive historic features. "The Society's being host to the League is a first for us," said Mrs. Bewley. "It's an exciting idea, and I hope we can count on all our members to make the League's March meeting in Haddonfield one of the outstanding highlights of 1981, both for the League and for us."

HADDON HEIGHTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAYS VISIT

Having made plans well in advance to hold their summer meeting at *Greenfield Hall* on July 15, more than 45 members of the Haddon Heights Historical Society arrived by bus and by car. On hand to welcome the visitors and to take them on

a tour of the building were Caroline Moody and Patricia Lennon. The members' interest in the many fascinating articles on display in *Greenfield Hall* — from the silhouette of Mathias Aspden, the samplers, the cooking utensils in the Keeping Room, the dolls on the third floor to the tools in the basement — was unflagging. Robert J. Hunter, president of the Haddon Heights Society wrote, "I know that all our members who were able to join us had a most enjoyable evening."

SUMMER HOURS

Continuing a practice started during the bicentennial year, the Society was open on Sunday afternoons during July and August. The reminder which appeared in the *Haddon Gazette* each week was effective. Residents who cannot come during the Society's normal weekday hours welcomed the chance to visit *Greenfield Hall* — many bringing relatives or out-of-town guests with them.

FALL HOURS RESUME

Labor Day signals the end of the summer schedule and the resumption of the Fall and Winter hours. Once again, the Society will be

NEWS BRIEFS (Continued)

open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:30. Librarians Gertrude Hess and Patty Burns would welcome assistance. There is much to be done to bring the library to the standards of professional excellence which Gertrude Hess would like to establish. The work is interesting; it is important; and whatever time one can devote to it — each week — each month — will be appreciated.

Hostesses are needed to guide and direct visitors and to sell the gift items — stationery, plates, tea towels, frakturs, etc. — made exclusively for the Society. If anyone is interested in becoming a hostess or updating their knowledge of *Greenfield Hall* and its contents, please call Mrs. Hess at the Society — 429-7375 — on Thursday afternoons. She will give your name to the Hostess chairpersons.

1981 HISTORIC VILLAGE FAIR

From all accounts, the annual June Fair — the 18th — was also one of the most pleasant.

Whatever they were doing — buying, browsing, bidding or watching, visitors seemed to be enjoying themselves. Children loved having their own sheltered enclave and obviously liked the imaginative activities planned just for them.

With so many people having such a good time, it was inevitable that the Fair would also be successful financially. The final accounting of costs and net profit will be made at the General Meeting on September 16.

Congratulations and sincere thanks from the Society's Board to the members of the Woman's Committee and the Evening Group who organized this year's Fair, to those who chaired the many booths and tables and to the many, many men and women who were actively involved before, during and after the Annual Historic Village Fair.

ACQUISITIONS

During the year the Society receives many artifacts of a bygone era. Each such "snippet of history," when related to others of the same time, tells a great deal about the physical conditions of life. Letters, journals and account books tell more about the influences that affected or changed lifestyles.

The Society has been given gifts of clothing, fans, pictures, prints and manuscript material which reflect changing patterns not only in fashion, but in home decoration and popular heroes of the day.

Two of the most recent gifts — a three-story doll house, complete with furniture, table setting, tea service and family portraits, was given by Deanna Smith Haines in memory of her mother, Ethel Morrison Smith; and the Hillman tall case clock, bequeathed to the Society by Agnes Hillman upon the death of her sister, was placed in the stair hall earlier this summer.

A complete report of acquisitions will be included in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

COUNTRY AUCTION

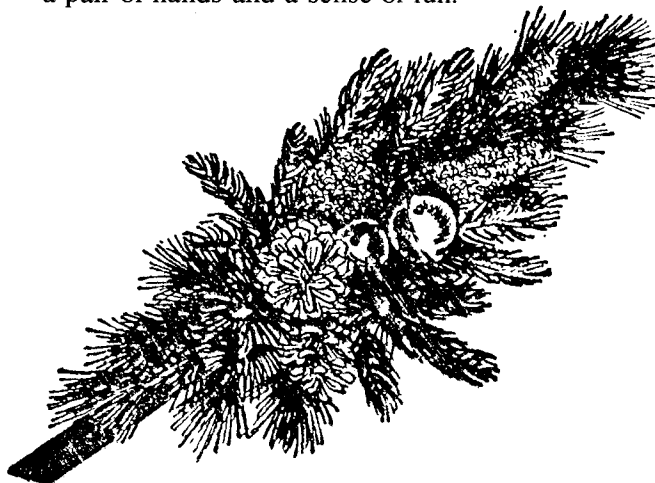
The Country Auction, scheduled for Saturday, October 18, has been postponed until next year. The Society appreciates the generosity and interest of all those who had actually pledged a donation to the Country Auction and those who planned to give something but had not quite determined what it would be. A Committee will be formed to call and personally thank each of those members for their support.

Meanwhile the Auction Committee strongly urges all those who are making something just for the Auction or had set aside something to donate — to hold these articles for next year's Country Auction.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOPPE

The Christmas Craft Shoppe will be held early in December and will once again have a selection of holiday greens and Williamsburg swags and kissing balls made by Edith and Harry Atkinson, as well as a pleasing array of hand crafted holiday gifts and homemade gourmet specialties.

Members of the Woman's Committee have been meeting regularly each Tuesday morning to snip, sew, paste and assemble an amazing variety of bright, colorful decorations. Willing workers are welcome. All that is needed are a pair of scissors, a pair of hands and a sense of fun.



SAMUEL MICKLE HOUSE:PHASE II OF THE RESTORATION COMPLETED

On May 6th, a major step was taken in the saga of the restoration of the *Samuel Mickle* (Hip Roof) *House* — the dedication of the completely renovated 1790 and 1836 rear shed additions.

Restoration of the exterior of the House and the remodeling of the shed additions represent years of devotion, interest and hard work on the part of many Society members. Its first treasurers, Ruth and Robert Dalton, watched over its income, expenses and savings; L. T. Reinicker obtained the grant which enabled the Society to move the House from Ellis Street; Mrs. Raymond Armstrong composed a poem to commemorate the move and later designed and embroidered curtains to be used when the oldest rooms are restored; John S. Wood, Jr., and Larry Test kept it watertight and its utilities in good repair; Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann arranged to have its value as an historic building attested to by respected architectural historians and had it placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places; Mr. Goettelmann is the architect of record for work done thus far; Robert Moore, during his term as president, organized and launched the fund drive which was supported by the entire community — adults and children, as well as by Society members; the Indian King Chapter of Questers obtained a grant of \$500.00; the Woman's Committee made generous contributions totalling thousands of dollars; Elmond Neeley not only manages its finances but is also zealous in promoting the sale of commemorative bottles; Ferris King, as project manager, was relentless in looking for ways to install quality fixtures at favorable prices and also did the interior painting; Mrs. Haydock located copies of all the documents pertaining to the House and compiled its history and, in addition, donated all fees given her for her talks on history.

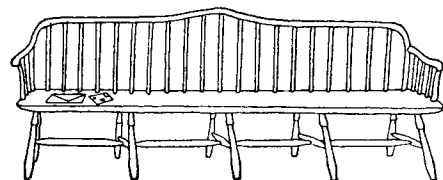
When the renovation of the rear room was almost completed, the Woman's Committee

proposed to the Society's Board that the room be named *The Edna L. Haydock Room*. The motion was unanimously carried, and formal dedication of *The Edna L. Haydock Room* was made May 6th.

Everything needed to provide a comfortable, light and airy committee room has been incorporated — storage space, refrigerator, sink and amply wired electrical outlets. Its furnishings — chairs, a deacon's bench, tables, trunk and lamp are gifts from Mrs. Haydock, Mrs. Ferdinand Brigham and Mrs. Rembert Edsel. With the addition of curtains, being embroidered now by Lillian Baxter,* *The Edna L. Haydock Room* will be a center of activity for the Woman's Committee and for the many other committees which meet regularly to manage the operations of the Society.

Now that Phases I and II of the restoration are completed, it is logical to ask, "When will work on Phase III begin?" A good question! There are many decisions to be made, safety factors to be considered and costs to be estimated. The remaining rooms are the oldest, the most historical and certainly the most interesting to visitors. Having come this far, however, it is highly unlikely that the Society will stop now; but when it will begin the final phase has yet to be determined.

*Since there are several panels to embroider, Mrs. Baxter, who is noted for her skill in crewel design and color, will welcome help and will be glad to teach volunteers the traditional crewel stitches and patterns. For information, please call Mrs. W. E. Moody, 428-2730.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Greenfield Hall

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HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES

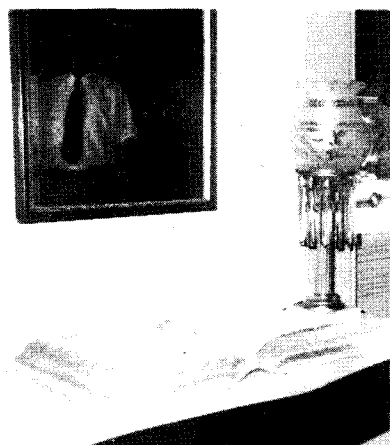
Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh

May 6th was a significant date for another reason. According to the Gregorian calendar, it was the 300th anniversary of Elizabeth Haddon's birth.

In honor of this special anniversary, Mr. Stanley Redman allowed the Society to display the Elizabeth Haddon Bible. It was only the second time this precious book had been publicly shown. One felt a certain sense of reverence before this Bible which must have been a source of strength and inspiration to its owner.

Printed before the authorized King James translation, the Haddon Bible has a richness of language, cadence and rhythm which is almost Shakespearean in its imagery. The type and the quality of the illuminated initial letters and engraved illustrations look more like the work of an individual scribed than of the printing press.

It was a privilege to display Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh's Bible on her anniversary.



The Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh Bible displayed on a marble top Queen Ann table which also belonged to her.

Timothy Matlack

Mystery seems to shroud the exact date of Timothy Matlack's birth. His tombstone says April 26, 1734; a family record says May 1736; and a newspaper report of his death in 1829 said he was 99 years of age, which would make 1980 the 250th anniversary of his birth. What is certain is that Timothy Matlack was born and educated in Haddonfield and later moved with his parents to Philadelphia.

In 1775, he was employed as an assistant to Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress. Some of the minutes of their meetings are written in Matlack's hand, and he wrote the commission appointing George Washington Commander-in-Chief. It is generally accepted that he engrossed the Declaration of Independence.

An active, energetic man, Matlack served with distinction in many capacities — delegate to the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, trustee of the University of the State of Pennsylvania, member of the Continental Congress, member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of North America, member and secretary of the American Philosophical Society.

A Quaker, he was disowned by the Meeting, but with friends who, like him, had either been read out of the Society or resigned because of wartime activities, founded the Society of Free Quakers.

A copy of one of the two known likenesses of Timothy Matlack was given to the Society by Mrs. Haydock and is hanging in the Samuel Mickle House. A chair, belonging to Matlack, is on display at the Indian King.